

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 L-03
PA-02 SS-15 CEA-01 STR-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
/090 W

-----112372 161339Z /45

O 161307Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USDA FAS WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1737
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 10788

USDA FOR FAS/LOOPER

OSLO PASS TO SECRETARY BERGLAND'S PARTY

USICA FOR VOA/PS, PGM/PPE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (BERGLAND, BOB), UR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY BERGLAND INTERVIEWED ON DEPARTURE
FROM MOSCOW

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW GIVEN
BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND TO ASSOCIATED
PRESS MOSCOW BUREAU CHIEF HARRY DUNPHY IN SHERMET'YEVO
AIRPORT DEPARTURE LOUNGE, APPROXIMATELY 11:45 A.M. LOCAL
TIME MAY 16:

(BEGIN TEXT)

-- QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, WAS THERE ANY PROGRESS TO-
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WARDS AN INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, AND WHAT'S THE
SOVIET ATTITUDE?

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: WELL, THE SOVIET ATTITUDE IS
ONE OF COOPERATION. WHILE THIS MISSION WAS NOT DESIGNED
PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS THAT AGREEMENT IN ANY DETAIL, I
THINK THERE'S GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE PART OF THE SO-

VIETS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A WHEAT AGREEMENT OF THIS SORT IS IN EVERYBODY'S BEST INTEREST. WE HAVE OUR REPRESENTATIVES NEGOTIATING THESE DETAILS AT THIS MOMENT IN GENEVA, I BELIEVE....

--MEMBER OF SECRETARY'S PARTY: NOT THIS DAY, BUT CONTINUING....

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: ON A CONTINUING BASIS, YES.

-- QUESTION: WERE THERE ANY CHANGES IN THE EXISTING SO-VIET-U.S. GRAIN AGREEMENT BEYOND THE SIX MILLION? WILL THERE BE A....?

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: NO. NO CHANGES IN THE AGREEMENT WERE EVEN DISCUSSED, AS A MATTER OF FACT. WE WERE MOSTLY DISCUSSING TWO AREAS: ONE, THE NEED FOR STEP-PING UP THE EXCHANGE OF SCIENTIFIC TEAMS IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURE. THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE HAD A FINE RELATIONSHIP OF LONG STANDING, AND THERE ARE SOME VERY IMPORTANT AREAS IN THE MORE ADVANCED ASPECTS OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE IN WHICH WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR COOPERATION. AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER WAS ALL POSITIVE. I WAS PLEASED WITH THE ATTITUDE. INDEED, I THINK WE MAY WELL LAUNCH A WHOLE NEW FRONTIER IN THIS AREA.

-- QUESTION: THIS INVOLVES ON-SITE INSPECTION OF CROPS
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TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE WHEAT HARVEST IS GOING TO BE?

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: IT GOES FAR BEYOND THAT. IT GOES INTO SUCH VERY SOPHISTICATED TECHNIQUES AS WEATHER FORECASTING, NEW VARIETIES....

-- QUESTION: NEW VARIETIES?

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: OF CROPS, WATER MANAGEMENT, AND A WHOLE RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC ISSUES.

-- QUESTION: OF THE 1977 CROP, DO YOU THINK THERE'LL BE ANY ADDITIONAL PURCHASES BY THE SOVIETS BEYOND THE ONES ALREADY MADE, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF, SAY, SOYBEANS?

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: WELL, NONE WAS CONTRACTED OR AGREED TO. WE DISCUSSED IN A GENERAL WAY THE NEED FOR BETTER PLANNING ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS FOR THE MOST PART HAD NO PLANS IN AGRICULTURE. WE'VE ALTERNATED BETWEEN BOOM AND BUST OVER THE YEARS. WE ASSURED THE SOVIETS THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL BE A

RELIABLE SUPPLIER OF HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCT AND WE'VE COM-
MISSIONED AN AD HOC GROUP OF EXPERTS BETWEEN THE TWO
GOVERNMENTS TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER. THE
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WILL BE DR. DALE HATHAWAY, ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

-- QUESTION: ON THE SOVIET GRAIN CROP FOR THIS YEAR,
AS THE RESULT OF HAVING BEEN TO VARIOUS AREAS DO YOU COME
AWAY FROM THIS VISIT WITH MORE FEEL THAN YOU HAD FOR HOW
THEY'RE GOING TO DO? WHEN THE REPORTS COME LATER THIS
YEAR, WILL YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA THAN WE DID LAST YEAR?

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-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: INDEED I WILL. I'M THE FIRST
AMERICAN SECRETARY TO VISIT THE "NEW LANDS". I KNOW WHAT
THEY CAN DO OUT THERE, AND THEY'VE DONE VERY WELL. BUT
I ALSO KNOW WHAT THE LIMITS ARE, THEY'RE WEATHER-ORIENTED.

-- QUESTION: THANK YOU, SIR.

(END TEXT). TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, PRESS CONFERENCES, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW10788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780206-0591
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780554/aaaabtm.tel
Line Count: 164
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f548c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2678885
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY BERGLAND INTERVIEWED ON DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, ETRD, EAGR, UR, (BERGLAND, ROBERT)
To: AGR OSLO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f548c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014